

# Soviets Begin 'Maneuvers' In Lithuania; Dialogue Urged

## *Neighboring Estonia, Latvia Vote for Parliaments*

By Michael Dobbs  
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, March 18—Soviet military planes and helicopters circled over Lithuania's capital today during unscheduled military "maneuvers" in the Baltic state, one week after it declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

The military activity in Lithuania came as voters in the two neighboring Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia went to the polls to elect new parliaments. Spokesmen for pro-independence groups in both Latvia and Estonia said they expected elections would allow them to form governments and also move toward eventual secession.

Speaking to journalists in Moscow, where he voted in the second round of elections for the parliament of the Russian Federation, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev insisted that he intended to "carry on a dialogue" with the Lithuanian people. But he again described the Lithuanian decision last Sunday to restore its prewar independence as unconstitutional and "illegitimate."

On Friday, Gorbachev gave Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis three days to state whether he will comply with a resolution Thursday by the Soviet Union's high-

est state body formally invalidating Lithuania's declaration of independence. Today, he told journalists that the Kremlin's next step would be determined by the "character and content" of Landsbergis's reply.

Aides to the Lithuanian leader said today that he intends to explain politely to Gorbachev that resolutions adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow could not apply to Lithuania because of its declared status as a foreign country.

Zigmas Vaisvila, head of a Lithuanian parliamentary commission on internal security, said that the Lithuanian government was given no advance notice of this weekend's military maneuvers. He said that Soviet officers called on Landsbergis this morning to inform him that the maneuvers were underway.

It is not clear how many troops are taking part in the exercises. Western military experts believe that about 1 million troops are stationed in the three Baltic republics along the Soviet Union's northwestern border.

"This action was obviously intended to frighten us," said Vaisvila, a leading member of the independence movement Sajudis, in a telephone interview from Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. "Things are peaceful here, but obviously people are likely to get

See SOVIET, A16, Col. 1

# Soviets Begin Unscheduled Military 'Maneuvers' in Lithuania

SOVIET, From A13

worried if they hear planes flying over their heads."

International telephone lines to Lithuania were down Saturday and today, but calls from Moscow to the republic were possible, the Associated Press reported. A telephone shift supervisor in Moscow said international telephone lines to Lithuania were closed Saturday for maintenance and she did not know when they would be restored.

Vilnius residents said that military helicopters dropped leaflets today urging Lithuanians to attend an anti-independence rally. The leaflets accused independence activists of representing "those who owned bourgeois Lithuania and disposed of the

fates of people, sold Lithuanian land and factories to foreign capital and cost hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians their jobs."

Like Estonia and Latvia, Lithuania was an independent state between 1920 and 1940, prior to its annexation by the Soviet Union under a secret pact with Nazi Germany.

In the past, the Soviet Union has used military maneuvers to intimidate East European countries that dared to defy Moscow, as in Czechoslovakia in 1968 or Poland in 1980-81. But Gorbachev has insisted that the Lithuanian dispute be resolved by "political means" without resorting to force.

Vaisvila reported a shooting incident on a highway near Vilnius between a Lithuanian policeman

and an armed Soviet soldier who refused to stop his vehicle when instructed. He said that the soldier, who allegedly opened fire first, was shot by the policeman and taken to a hospital. The army's version of the incident could not be obtained.

A spokesman for the pro-independence Latvian Popular Front said that its candidates had won election in 29 out of 40 districts where results have been declared so far. The Popular Front victories included central areas of the capital, Riga, which is only 50 percent Latvian, suggesting that significant numbers of Russians also were voting for secessionist candidates.

A leader of the Estonian Popular Front, Endel Lippmaa, said that pro-independence candidates were

expected to win 75 percent of the seats in the new Estonian parliament. Any constitutional changes, including a declaration of independence, must be ratified by at least two-thirds of the deputies.

Progressive candidates also appeared to be doing well in early returns in the runoff elections for the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics. Voters in Moscow elected a renegade lieutenant colonel, Vitaly Urazhtsev, who has angered the Defense Ministry by setting up an independent union to represent soldiers.

Full results of elections for the Russian parliament, as well as those in Byelorussia and Ukraine, are expected later this week.